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chairman of the Council of Ministers, and later first secretary of the Central Committee of Azerbaijan. At the same time Beria received the post of deputy chief of the Georgian GPU and later became its head. After 1931, Beria was made secretary of the Georgian Central Committee (as Bagirov in Azerbaijan).

- 5. Then came the fourth period of Bagirov's career, 1937-1941. In 1937 there were twelve Union Republics in the Soviet Union and while all republican secretaries except Beria and Bagirov were liquidated, these two, not only survived but were admitted into the Central Committee. In 1937 the Central Committee consisted of 128 members and only 15 (excluding the Polithuro) remained free, among them Beria and Bagirov, which speaks well for their political shrewdness and cleverness. In 1937 Beria flew to Moscow and succeeded in forcing an investigation of Yezhov's activities by a commission headed by Molotov, as a result of which Beria replaced Yezhov and began his Moscow or national career.
- 6. Bagirov drinks, smokes and is sociable. Although independent by nature, he was a tool in the hands of Stalin whom he served ideologically and not by any design. Among the Azerbaijanians Bagirov always enjoyed the reputation of being a Turkophobe and a Russophile. He is a practical man and an organizer, but not a theoretician. His writing is done for him by his Party apparatus. After Beria he is the best informed man or MVD techniques. Like Stalin and Beria, Bagirov is a product of the Oriental political training, outwardly loyal and inwardly treacherous. One cannot trust him.
- 7. Bagirov has a thorough knowledge of the Near and Middle East, its people, their psychology and history. He is considered a specialist in diversignist activities in Iran, Turkish-Azerbaijan and even the Arab States of the Near East, and Soviet intelligence always works with him.
- 3. The present stage Bagirov's career was his election as an alternate member of the Presidium. However, in April of 1953 he was relieved of his job as first secretary of Azerbaijan and was put back in the job of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan. This is definitely a demotion. The former MVD minister of Azerbaijan, Yakubov, (a Turk) was made the first secretary in place of Bagirov. Degrov thus has become #2 master of Azerbaijan which, of course, throws a shadow on his Presidium job. How he could be demoted while Beria is the strongest man in the Soviet Union is not clear yet.

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